

REMARKS

In the Final Office action, claims 1, 3, 8-10, 14, 28, 29, 31, 38, 42, 43 and 48-50 were rejected as anticipated by Shutic '958; claims 1, 3, 8-10, 28, 31-33 and 35 and 36 were rejected as being anticipated by Shaneyfelt; claims 2 and 30 were rejected as being unpatentable over Shutic or Shaneyfelt in view of Diaz; claims 11-12 were rejected as being unpatentable over Shutic or Shaneyfelt in view of Fischli; claim 34 was rejected as unpatentable over Shaneyfelt in view of Diaz; claims 39 and 51 were rejected as being unpatentable over Shutic or Shaneyfelt in view of Ribnitz; and claims 4-7, 13, 40 and 41 were indicated as being allowable in independent form.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to co-pending United States patent application serial no. 10/476,602 filed on October 31, 2003. This application is a continuation in part of the instant application. Although it is believed that the claims of these co-pending applications do not conflict with each other, the Examiner is respectfully requested independently to review and confirm that such is the case.

New claim 65 has been added that places allowed claim 4 in independent form.

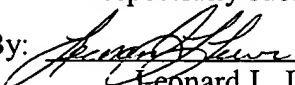
The independent claims have been amended to recite that a cyclone collects overspray powder from a spray booth and that overspray powder is transferred or conveyed from a powder outlet of the cyclone to another collection device through a conduit that is under negative pressure. The art of record, particularly Shutic, Ribnitz, Shaneyfelt, Diaz and Fischli make no suggestion of this arrangement. Although the art of record shows the use of cyclones, as is old, none of the references use negative pressure in a conduit to move powder from the cyclone outlet to another collection device. In Shutic and Shaneyfelt, powder falls by gravity. Also, the Office action identifies element 82 in Shutic as a cyclone. This device is not a cyclone but rather a vacuum receiver. A filter separates powder and air in the receiver 82, not cyclonic activity.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the dependent claims as these claims clearly recite additional patentable subject matter, however, further comment is deferred pending reconsideration of the rejection of the independent claims.

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It is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over the art of record and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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